ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

TWELFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

CENTRAL LIBERTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH THE

HAYSOP CHURCH, BIBB COUNTY, ALABAMA,

Held October 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, 1896,

The next meeting will be held
With the Liberty Church, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama,
Beginning on Friday before the first Sabbath in Oct., 1897.

ELDER ADAM FIKES,
Moderator.

A. J. MAYFIELD,
Clerk.

BURTON & WEATHERFORD, PRINTERS, TUSCALOOSA.

PROCEEDINGS.

The Central Liberty Baptist Association met in its Twelfth Session, with the Haysop Church, on Friday before the first Sabbath in October, 1896. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder Adam Fikes, from II. Thes. 3:2—"Pray for us." Then a recess of one hour and twenty minutes was given to partake of dinner, which was prepared and at the church, in which time the people partook of a delicious repast. Then the former Moderator called the body to order, and declared it partially organized and ready for business.

1. Called for the letters and appointed the following brethren to read them: J. H. Deweese and H. P. Boyd. The letters were read and the names of delegates enrolled.

Haysop—Rev. W. G. Hubbard, S. C. Hubbard, B. J. Murphy, M. Thompson, B. Thompson, T E. J. Hubbard.
Liberty—J H. Deweese, H. P. Boyd, G. W. Toomey.
Mulberry—Rev. A. D. Fikes, A. J. Mayfield, J. M. Snipes, W. L, Caddell.
Pine Flat—C. W. Arnold, G. S. Smelley,* Norman Morrison.
South Sandy—A. J. Dockery, J. Grey,* J. L. Rowe,* S. P. Sumner.
Spring Hill—T. J. Lake, J. M. Fondren, J. W. Lake, W. Z Clements.*
Union—Rev. J. R. Wiggins, J. M. Greathouse, J T. Toomey, J. B. Keeton.
Pleasant Hill—J. M. Johnston, M. C. Hester, C. W. Johnston,* L. A. Hester.
Hopewell—Wm. Tingle, Walter Geddie,* Samuel Tingle.*

On motion the vacancies of delegates were filled as follows: Haysop, M. Thompson and B. Thompson; Liberty, G. W. Toomey; South Sandy, S. P. Sumner; Mulberry, W. L. Caddell.

Then went into the election of a Moderator and Clerk, which was done by acclamation, and resulted in the choice of A. D. Fikes, Moderator and A. J. Mayfield, Clerk. Appointed the following committees:

Devotion—H. P. Boyd, J. M. Greathouse, Wm. Tingle, with the Deacons of Haysop Church.
Arrangement of Business—J. H. Deweese, W. G. Hubbard, J. R. Wiggins, with the Moderator and Clerk.
Finance—Barney Thompson, J. B. Keeton, J. M. Snipes, B J. Murphy.
Documents—S. P. Sumner, C, P. Arnold, S. C. Hubbard.

Called for report on Devotion: Prayer meeting to-morrow morning, led by J. T. Toomey.

By request of W. G. Hubbard, adjourned for him to attend the burial services of one of Haysop church members.

SATURDAY MORNING, 8:30 o'clock.

Prayer meeting, led by J. T. Toomey. Then the Moderator took his seat and declared the Association ready for business.

3. Called for report of Arrangement of Business, which was read and adopted as follows:

We, your Committee on Arrangement of Business, beg leave to report that the Association take the following order of business : 1. Open the door for correspondence. 2, Return correspondence. 3. Call the roll and mark absentees. 4. Call for report on Missions. 5. Call for report on Sabbath Schools 6. Call for report on Temperance. 7. Call for report on Education. 8. Call for report on Documents. 9. Call for report on Finance. 10. We recommend that our ministers interchange pulpits with each other once or twice during the year, and that they preach at least twice during the year a special sermon on missions, and all other institutions kept up by the Baptists, and to take up collections for the same, and to send the money to whom the giver may direct. 11. We recommend that this body appoint some brother to write a circular letter to be printed in the minutes of next year. Respectfully submitted, J. H. DEWEESE, Chm.

Opened the door for correspondence, and received correspondence from the Harmony, by Bros. Daniel Lewis and J. M. Meders; from the Tuscaloosa, by Revs. J. H. Mise, J. N. Goodwin, and Bro. J. Shaw.

Returned correspondence as follows - To the Harmony, S. C. Hubbard, Martin Thompson; to the Tuscaloosa. Wm. Tingle, S. P. Sumner; to the Cahaba, Revs. J. R. Wiggins, A. D. Fikes, and Bro. C. W. Arnold; to the Mulberry, Rev. W. G. Hubbard and A. J. Mayfield.

On motion no brother of this association is allowed to correspond with any other association unless they are appointed by the association.

Called the roll and marked absentees. (See table. Absentees marked with a star.)

Called for report on Missions. Only a verbal report was made, which was, on motion of W. G. Hubbard, was received, and Bro. Deweese was continued on the committee.

Called for the report on Sunday Schools. The report was read and some excellent speeches made on the same, and then adopted, viz-

Dear Brethren—The cause of Sabbath Schools is one that should claim our attention more than it does ; for it is one that each one should take an interest in. In a good Sabbath School all can take a part and all can be benefitted thereby. I am glad to know that the cause of Sabbath Schools is on gaining ground in our midst, and that our brethren are beginning to wake up in regard to trying to educate the youths of our association. Our literature is so arranged that no one can have an excuse when he is where a Sabbath School is, on account of not knowing what the subject is, for all the publishiug houses use the same scripture.

A. J. MAYFIELD, Chairman

Called for the report on Temperance, which was read.

On motion, adjourned one hour for refreshments, in which time a delicious repast was served. Then the Moderator resumed his seat and called the body to order. Then the association took up business where we left off in the forenoon, and several intelligent speeches were made on the subject of Temperance, and the report was adopted as follows :

Your Committee on Temperance beg leave to report that the spirit of temper-

ance has been fostered among the members of our association and we still urge upon our brethren to still use all their energy to press onward and upward. While thousands are filling drunkard's graves, we are thankful, brethren, that our association is not haunted with drunkenness and intemperance as many other local communities are. Respectfully submitted, J. R. WIGGINS.

Called for the report on Education, and there was none. On motion the same brother was continued on the committee.

Colled for report on Documents:

We, your committee on Documents, submit the following : On examining the letters, we find but few of the churches have Sabbath Schools. We also find that Haysop church has taken up a colledtion for the Baptist Orphanage to the amount of $3.70, which has been sent to its destination, We find nothing else of importance to report. S, P. SUMNER, Ch'm.

Called for the report on Finance, which was read and adopted, as follows : We, your committee on Finance, have received from the churches $14.30 for minutes and other expenses. J. N. SNIPES.

On motion of W. G. Hubbard, no church that does not represent will be entitled to minutes in that year.

On motion of J. B. Wiggins, the Clerk is to have 250 copies of this minute printed and have the rest of the money on hand for his services.

The next session of this body will convene with the Liberty Church, Tuscaloosa County, on Friday before the first Sabbath in October, 1897, Rev. W. G. Hubbard to preach the introductory sermon; J. R. Wilkins alteanate.

The Moderator appointed the following committee : Temperance, W. G. Hubbard ; Sabbath Schools, R. F. Wooton ; Circular Letter, M. Morrison, Jr.

The Association having gone through with the business before it, we return our thanks to the brethren and sisters of Haysop church and the vicinity for their kindness to us during our stay with them.

Then we adjourned to meet at the place and time before written.

Joined in prayer, led by Rev. W. G. Hubbard.

A. J. MAYFIELD, Clerk. A. D. FIKES, Moderator.

On Sabbath morning at 10 o'clock, the singing and prayer meeting combi ed was led by Barney Thompson. At 11 o'clock Rev. J. R. Wiggi s preached an i teresting sermon from the words : "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Then we sang an appropriate hymn and gave the parting hand. Prayer by Prof. Hicks.—CLERK.

ARTICLES OF CONSTITUTION.

1. The Association shall be composed of delegates chosen by the different churches, from their own bodies, in our union, who, on producing letters, certifying their appointment as delegates, by their churches, shall be entitled to seats.

2. The delegates thus chosen and convened shall be known by the name of the Central Liberty Baptist Associatlon, who shall usurp no authority over the churches in onr union, or infringe on any of their internal rights, but merely be considered an advisory Council in matters relative to their internal concerns. Nevertheless, it becomes necessary in some cases to have a uniform rule of procedure, viz : If one church commit an offence against another, it shall be the duty of the offended to labor with the offender for satisfaction ; if she fail of success, she shall call the aid of two or more sister churches to assist in laboring for satisfaction ; and, if satisfaction cannot thus be obtained, it shall be the duty of the aggrieved church to bring the matter before the Association, to be decided upon according to its merits. And if a serious difficulty should arise in an individual church, which, upon labor, she cannot reconcile, she shall call the aid of two or more churches to assist in the work ; and, if the difficulty be not thus removed, it shall be the duty of the church to bring the case to the association, to be acted upon as above described. But the association will take cognizance of no case of the above kind, unless due course of procedure shall have been pursued.

3. The churches of our nnion shall transmit to every annual session of the association, written communications, specifying the names of their messengers, dismissed by letter, excommunicated, restored, and deceased, since the last session, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

4. Every church in our union shall be entitled to a representation in the following manner, viz : A church containing fifty members, or less, shall be entitled to three representatives, and one additional representative for every twenty-five over fifty. Any church failing to represent herself as above described, shall state reasons at the next association.

5. Newly constituted churches shall be admitted into our union by messengers bearing petitionary letters. If, upon due examination, they be found orderly and orthodox, their reception shall be manifested by the Moderator giving the messenger the right hand of fellowship.

6. The association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper rule of decorum, which she is authorized to alter or amend according to her own views.

7. At every session of the association a Moderator shall be chosen by and from among the delegates present, whose duty it shall be to see that the rules of decorum be strictly observed, and to take the voice of the association upon all subjects legally introduced. A Clerk shall be chosen in the same manner, whose duty it shall be to take proper and correct minutes of the proceedings of the convention.

8. The association shall have power to exclude from her union any church who may violate the constitution or depart from the orthodox principles of the Gospel.

9. The association shall furnish the churches with minutes every session..

10. Every query sent by a particular church must be inserted in her letter, certifying that she has endeavored to reconcile, and has failed. In such a case, the association shall take it under consideration, and the voice of a majority shall be considered an advisory answer, which shall be entered on the minutes.

11. Queries that immediately concern the general union of the churches, sent

by a particular church, or introduced by a proper motion, shall be taken up and decided on as soon as practicable.

12. And church in our union having a member whom she may think possesses promising talents for the ministry, she shall, after a thorough conviction that he is called of the Lord to work, proceed to license him to preach the Gospel, at discretion, and report the same at the next session of the association.

13. Any church in our association having a preacher whom she deems worthy of ordination, shall call a presbytery of ministers from sister churches to officiate in the work, and all presbyteries, in the ordination of ministers and deacons, or the constitution of churches, shall be governed by the Articles of Faith of this Association.

14. The Association shall have a fund, supplied from the voluntary contributions of the churches, and all moneys thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches by their messengers, and paid over to the committee on finance. The committee shall be appointed annually, whose duty it shall be to receive in charge the Association fund, and dispose of the same agreeably to order, and make, at every session, a fair and substantial report of all their proceedings.

15. There shall be an association book provided, in which the minutes of every annual session shall be regularly recorded by the Clerk, who shall receive annual compensation for his services.

16. The association shall not adjourn any session until it shall have finished all the business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

17. The minutes of the association shall be read, and corrected if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, before the session rises.

18. The association shall, in all cases, be governed by a majority of the members present.

19. Giving or withholding charity from any benevolent object shall not be considered a breach of fellowship by this association

20. Amendments to the constitution may be made at any session, when two-thirds of the members present may deem necessary.

ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES.

Article. 1. We believe in one only living and true God—the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost. 2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the only rule of faith and practice. We believe in the doctrine of election, and that God chose His people in Christ before the foundation of the world. 4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin. 5. We believe in man's incapacity, by his own free will and ability, to recover himself of his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature. 6. We beiieve that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the righteousness of Christ imputed to them. 7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit, 8. We believe that the saints shall be preserved in grace and never fall away. 9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are Ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects, and that immersion is the Apostolic Baptism. 10. We believe that our Lord and Master washed His disciples' feet; we ought to wash one another's feet. 11 We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and general judgment; and that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal. 12. We

believe that no minister has any right to administer the ordinances of the Gospel but one who is Baptised, and comes under the imposition of the hands of the presbytery. 13. We believe that none but regularly baptised believers have a right to commune together at the Lord's table.

RULES OF DECORUM.

Article 1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer. 2. A Moderaror and Clerk shall be chosen by the suffrages of the members present. 3. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order, and have a discretionary right to call to order at any time. 4. Any member not satisfied with the decision, may appeal to the Association on the same day, but at no other time. 5 None but one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet, address the Moderator, and, on obtaining leave, proceed. 6. The Moderator, when addressed for leave to speak, shall signify the same by naming the person, or otherwise, 7. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject or use words of personal reflection. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by him who made it. 8. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided or withdrawn before another shall be offered. 9. When a question is taken up, after allowing time for debate, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association on the subject by yeas and nays, or otherwise. 10. Any member wishing to retire, shall obtain leave of the Moderator. 11. No member shall speak more than twice on the same proposition, without leave of the Association; nor shall any proposition be made to close the subject until the debates have been carried through. 12. The appellation of brother shall be used in the Association in the address of one member to another. 13. The names of members shall be called as often as the Association may direct. 14. No member shall be tolerated in any practice that may tend to interrupt public speaking. 15. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another to his seat during the time; but shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided. 16. Any member violating these rules shall be reproved by the Moderator, as directed by the Association—but only on the day the breach shall have been made. 17 These rules shall be read at the opening of every session of the Association, and shall be altered or amended when a majority of the members shall deem it necessary.

Received of A. J. Mayfield, $7.50, for 250 copies of these minutes.

BURTON & WEATHERFORD.

Rev'd M M Wood
East Lake
Ala

187
Hagler Ala

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCH.	PASTOR.	PASTOR'S P.O.	CLERK.	CLERK'S P. O.	Baptized.	Rec. by L.	Restored.	Dis. by L.	Excluded	Died.	Prev. No.	Present No	Finances.
Haysop	W.G. Hubbard		B. J. Murphy		7		1	5	2	2	150	149	$3 00
Liberty	F. M. Hobson		H. P. Boyd	Hagler	2	1	1	14		2	77	63	1 50
Mulberry	A. D. Fikes		J. W. Caddell	Pondville	9	1	2	9	1	1	89	90	1 50
Pleasant Hill	J. W. Loveless	Griffin	C. W. Johnson	Monndville		1				1	82	82	1 50
Pine Flat	J. R. Wiggins	Data	G. T. Smelley	Five Mile	2				3	1	51	49	1 50
Spring Hill	J. R. Wiggins	Data	L. C. Averett	Five Mile	16	4	1	4			74	86	
South Sandy	F. M. Hobson	Hagler	S. P. Sumner	Griffin		4				1	84	87	1 50
Union	J. R. Wiggins		J. T. Toomey	Data	6	4	1	4			74	81	1 50
Hopewell	J. W. Loveless	Griffin	J. D.Geddie	Moundville							32	32	1 00